



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	2/22/08	Interpretation	08-001
Topic	Construction Type for Group I-1 Multi Story Facility		
Code Section(s)	2007 CBC Section 425.3.1 and 425.3.2		
Requested by	Robert C. Neal, C.B.O., P.E. Building and Safety Official City of Lancaster 44933 Fern Avenue Lancaster, CA 93534-2461 (661) 723-6000		

Section 425.3.1 of the 2007 California Building Code (CBC) requires Group I-1 occupancy licensed as a RCFE of one or two stories in height where more than six nonambulatory clients are housed to be of Type V-A construction. Section 425.3.2 of the 2007 CBC calls for Group I-1 occupancy licensed as a RCFE of three to five stories in height where more than six nonambulatory clients are housed above the first floor to be constructed of a minimum of Type I-B construction. Table 601 details Type V-A as primarily 1 hour fire resistive, and Type 1-B as primarily 2 hour fire resistive.

1. Does this mean a Group I-1 occupancy can entirely house nonambulatory clients on the 2nd floor of a Type V-A building?

Yes. 2007 CBC Section 425.3.1 is for Group I-1 occupancies in a one or two story facility housing more than six non-ambulatory elderly clients.

2. If the licensing of a RCFE is only for the 1st and 2nd floors, does the building of a 3rd or 4th floor have to be of Type I-B construction?

Because the occupancy classification is not defined for the 3rd or 4th floors, please review 2007 CBC Section 508.3.3.2. The allowable area and height of a building shall be based on the most restrictive allowances of the occupancy groups under consideration.

Section 308.2 details a Group I-1 occupancy for supervised residential care and Section 308.3 details a Group I-2 for persons classified as nonambulatory.

The definition of nonambulatory is defined by the Department of Social Services Administration in section 310.2 of the same code on page 63. Since the definition is determined by the Department of Social Services Administration, does the State Fire Marshal also need to determine the type of construction appropriate to house nonambulatory clients above the 2nd floor?

The Health and Safety Code Section 13131.5 (c) (3) dictates the types of construction for facilities housing more than six non-ambulatory elderly clients.